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GOOGLE TO PAY PUBLISHERS OF NEWS $1 BN OVER 3 YEARS

Select media houses will be paid to create content for a new product called News Showcase, Google said on Thursday

TAKING POWER BACK FROM ALGORITHMS

It's Google's biggest financial commitment to the media industry yet and builds on its recently-launched news licensing program in which it pays select publishers to feature their stories in Google News and Search. The new product will allow publishers to highlight stories that they think are more relevant to readers, instead of letting the algorithm do the business

WORK IN PROGRESS ON INDIA DEALS

- Google has signed deals with nearly 200 publications in Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, the UK and Australia. It is working to expand News Showcase to other countries, including India
- The announcement comes after years of media outlets locking horns with Google over not paying them for displaying content

24 billion

NUMBER OF VISITS PER MONTH TO NEWS WEBSITES THROUGH GOOGLE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

UP cops peddle no-rape theory, cite lab report on samples

Appalled experts describe spin-doctoring by police as extremely irresponsible, erroneous

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi/ Lucknow

THE Hathras gang-rape and murder case got a new twist on Thursday with the UP police trashing the sexual assault claim and spinning out a conspiracy theory instead. Citing a forensic lab report that said no traces of sperm were found in the samples taken from the victim's body, ADG Law and Order Prashant Kumar claimed the victim wasn't raped. But the report's value was questionable as the samples were lifted eight days after the assault.

Soon, ADG Kumar ran into a brick wall of criticism as experts described his inference as "extremely irresponsible, unprofessional and erroneous". Legal experts recalled that the 2013 amendment in rape laws waived the clause that had made it necessary to establish 'penetration' in such crimes. They also questioned the inordinate delay in conducting the medical examination.

A senior scientific officer at a government forensic department said: "As a general norm, after 72 hours of such an offence, it is difficult to get traces of semen. So, it is crucial to send the sample for examination within 72 hours." In the Hathras case, the samples collected on the eighth day after the assault reached the lab on the eleventh day.

Former DGP of UP police, Vikram Singh, said the horrific Nirbhaya tragedy had brought reforms in the rape law and it was made clear that penetration is not necessary to establish the offence. P11

SIT probe

A 3-member SIT arrived in the village of the victim and recorded the statements of her family members and relatives. The SIT will stay in Hathras for 3 days

HATHRAS HORROR

Sept 14: Assailants drag young woman from behind using her dupatta into a nearby field where she was working around 9 am, try to strangulate her

FIR lodged at Chandpa police station names one person based on complaint of victim's brother

Initially taken to Bagla Joint District Hospital at Hathras. Shifted to AMU's JN Medical College and Hospital (JNMCH) around 4.30 pm the same day

Conscious during admission at JNMCH, had ligature mark on the neck, which indicates strangulation. Her C6 vertebra had fracture and spinal cord was damaged. Later she passes out

Sept 22: Victim regains consciousness, records statement before magistrate under Sec 164 of CrPC alleging gang-rape by four men, names them. Police add Sec 376 D (gang-rape) to the original FIR, arrest all accused. Samples taken at JNCMH to confirm assault

Sept 25: Samples sent by JNMCH reach Agra forensic lab

Sept 28: Victim turns critical, shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi

Sept 29: Succumbs to injuries at 6.55 am. Body handed over to UP Police, who take it to Hathras at night

Sept 30: Police cremate body in the wee hours allegedly in the absence of family members and without their consent

Oct 1: Agra lab report says no evidence of sperm or semen in samples lifted from victim, police cite it to push their no-rape theory

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi slumps amid a confrontation with the Uttar Pradesh police who detained him on the way to Hathras on Thursday | PTI

Rahul, Priyanka hit the streets, briefly detained

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

ON a day of intense political tussle over the alleged gang-rape and murder of a Dalit woman in Hathras, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were on Thursday briefly detained by the UP police while on their way to meet her family. A footage of the incident showing a scuffle between Congress workers and the UP police, during which Rahul got knocked down, added to the drama.

Earlier, the convoy of the Congress leaders was stopped on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida. The police told them not to proceed to Hathras as Section 144 was in force there. But Rahul and Priyanka alighted from their vehicle and started proceeding on foot along the Yamuna expressway to Hathras.

The scuffle broke out when the police tried to stop them again. Rahul and Priyanka were briefly detained and then taken back to Delhi by the police. Later, an FIR was filed against them and over 130 Congress workers for flouting prohibitory orders under Section 144. For his part, Rahul criticised the Yogi government, calling it jungle raj. "It is Jungle Raj in UP that meeting a family in mourning scares the government. Don't be so afraid chief minister," he tweeted. P4,11

EXPRESS READ

GST mop-up at highest level since lockdown

New Delhi: GST collections rose to ₹95,480 crore in September - the highest level since the lockdown - in signs of a revival of economic activity and demand returning from the lifting of restrictions. P15

3 jawans killed in shelling by Pakistan along LoC

Srinagar: Three soldiers were killed and five others injured in firing and mortar shelling by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. P12

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE — 34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

State, Tata Tech to invest ₹4.6K cr for ITI upgrade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a government-private sector collaboration to upgrade 150 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Tata Technologies Ltd will invest ₹4,080 crore while the State Government will be chipping in with ₹657 crore. In all, ₹4,636.50 crore will be invested in the ITIs so that they can keep pace with requirements of the industry.

The state cabinet on Thursday cleared a proposal to upgrade the institutes and train students in the latest technologies to help them get absorbed in industries or even take up self-employment. As per the plan, ₹30 crore will be invested in each of the 150 ITIs which will be equipped to provide "Industry 4.0" standard training.

Dr K V Thrilok Chandra, Commissioner, Department of Industrial Training and Employment, termed it as a major boost in upgrading the ITIs to provide the best of training to students.

Tata Technologies Ltd is coming with a consortium of 20 leading firms which will be part of the initiative to provide the latest equipment and training to the ITI students. Those graduating from these institutes will also get preference in placement by the companies that are part of the consortium.

CONTINUED ON: P4

SC nixes Gujarat's 12-hr workday notification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday struck down the Gujarat government's notification exempting industries in the state from observing certain obligations towards workers, such as providing humane working conditions and paying overtime wages.

The Gujarat government had issued a notification on April 17 allowing industries to make employees work for 12 hours a day with a 30-minute break after every six hours. It also did away with the provision that mandates double wages for overtime work.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud termed the notification an affront to workers' right against forced labour and said employees' right to life cannot be at the mercy of their employers.

The notification was issued under Section 5 of the Factories Act, which gives state governments the power to exempt industries from provisions of the Act on grounds of public emergency. The Gujarat government cited the Covid-19 pandemic as the reason for invoking Section 5.

The bench said the state government's intent may have been to ameliorate the financial exigencies of industries but the burden cannot be placed on the "weary shoulders of the labouring worker".

CONTINUED ON: P12

Cabinet for new ordinances on land reforms, APMC laws

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WITH important bills on amendments to the APMC Act and the Land Reforms Act stuck in the Legislative Council, and the Industrial Disputes Act defeated during voting, the State Cabinet on Thursday decided to issue fresh ordinances. They will then be sent to the Governor for immediate approval.

Chief Minister B S Yeddiyurappa chaired the 18th cabinet meeting with just 17 of his ministers as 11 ministers were either absent due to Covid-19 protocols or they were away on tour. Those who skipped the meeting were Deputy CMs Govind M Karjol and Laxman Savadi and ministers Basavaraj Bommai, K S Eshwarappa, R Ashoka J C Madhu Swamy, Prabhu Chavan, Shashikala Jolle, H Nagesh, Shrimanth Patil and K Gopalaiah.

The government had earlier passed ordinances and had presented the amendment bills in the monsoon session of the legislature, which concluded last Saturday.

CONTINUED ON: P7

IPL TODAY
HYDERABAD vs CHENNAI
LIVE: STAR SPORTS1/ HOTSTAR @ 7.30PM

"Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan"
To commemorate the
116th Birth Anniversary
of
Bharat Ratna Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri
Bhajan Samrat, Shri Anup Jalota
will present Devotional Songs
on Friday, 2nd October 2020 from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M.
through a virtual live performance
You are cordially invited to join the event through the links :
Facebook : shorturl.at/floyY
You Tube : shorturl.at/fCMU6
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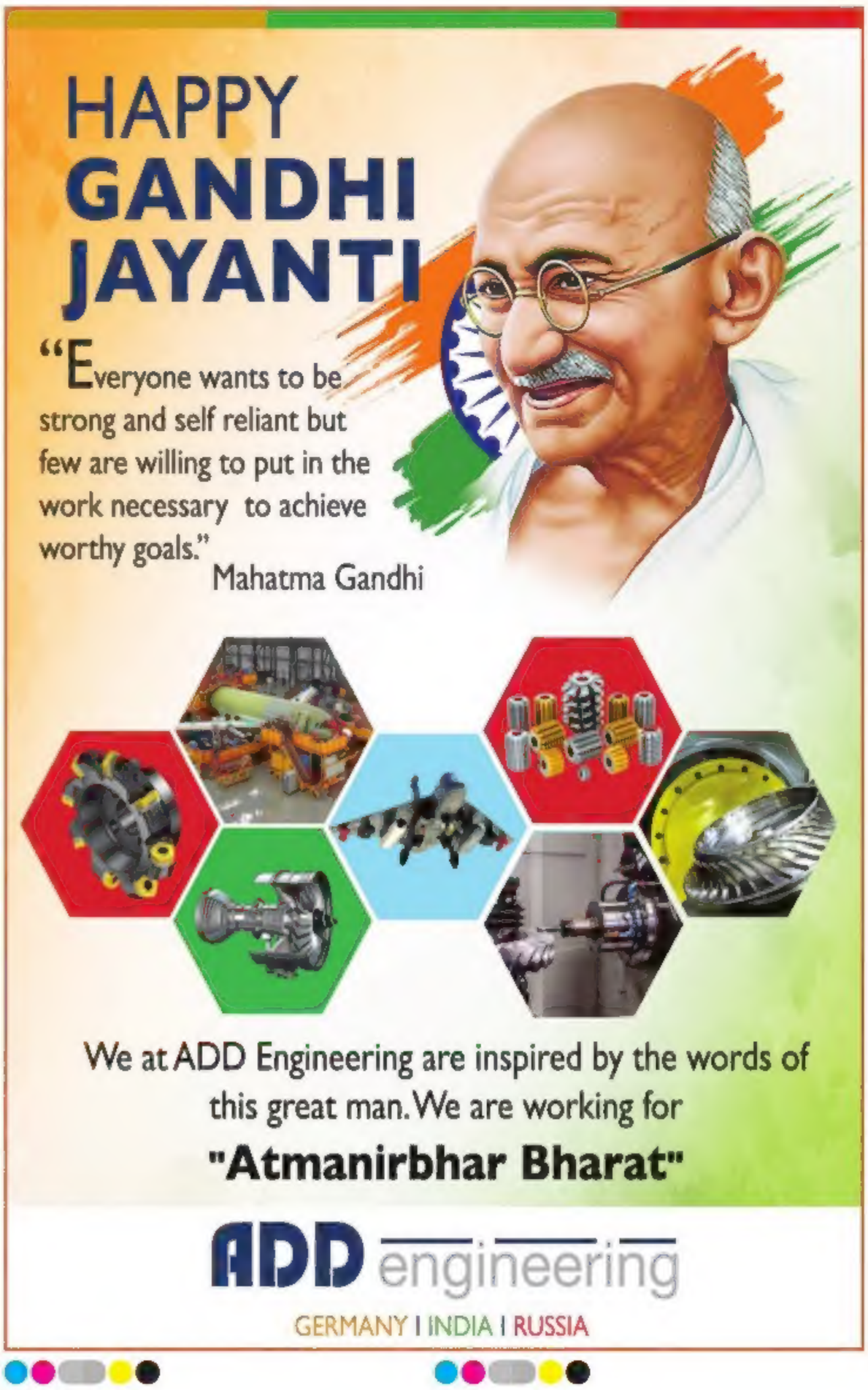
HAPPY GANDHI JAYANTI
"Everyone wants to be strong and self reliant but few are willing to put in the work necessary to achieve worthy goals."
Mahatma Gandhi
We at ADD Engineering are inspired by the words of this great man. We are working for
"Atmanirbhar Bharat"
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